

Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
February 11, 2016

Present: Rita Braswell, Rita Kornblum, Bob Coughlin, Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by acting chairperson Kornblum.

The January 14, 2016 minutes were accepted on a motion by Coughlin/Braswell.

Walton stated that the Middle School is considering the Food Too Good to Waste (FTGTW) program. The committee discussed preparing a package of materials for MMSA and administration. Kornblum will draft a pre- and post-survey, Walton will draft a parent pledge form and a write up of the program. It was decided to loan kitchen scales to participants. To keep households engaged, incentives will be given at the end of each week. Ideas included food storage containers, compost collection containers, grocery store and farmer's market gift cards. The grand prize could be a backyard composter.

Walton circulated drafted changes to the solid waste regulations. After going over the proposed language, members were encouraged to provide Walton with their edits before the March 10 meeting. An electronic copy will be sent with the March 10 meeting notice.

Members discussed a draft budget of items that could be purchased through the CT DEEP \$14,490 Recycling Rewards grant. Items included waste station canopies, banners and reusable dinnerware for low waste events, recycle containers and compost bins. Walton is waiting to hear from CT DEEP if the purchase of a commercial dishwasher for Town Hall low waste functions and an ice machine in the Community Center to replace disposable ice packs would be an acceptable expense under the grant. Flatware and reusable trays have already been purchased to replenish supplies at the four schools. Walton will inquire about using some of the funds to pay for repair clinic instructors. Walton will proceed with making the purchases that have been CT DEEP approved. To go along with the low waste material purchases, Walton stated that the Town Manager is agreeable to adopting a municipal low waste event policy. Walton will work on a draft policy for the committee to review at a future meeting.

The Town will host paper shredding at the Mansfield transfer station on Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 9 am to 12 pm. Members recommended charging \$3 for the first banker box and getting a second one free.

A schedule of the 2016 Repair Cafes was circulated. When Walton finds out which repair skills will be represented at the April 9 cafe, she will notify Braswell, who will submit the information to Senior Sparks newsletter.

The Community Center is willing to participate in a waste audit. Walton will provide the committee with a couple of dates to choose from if members wish to participate.

The committee discussed a possible date for Rid Litter Day. It was suggested that it be held on Friday, April 22, Earth Day. Walton will find out when UConn's spring weekend is scheduled to help the committee decide on a date at the next meeting. There was conversation about having a collection point to weigh bagged litter and create a visual statement about litter.

Walton reported that because of the trash that is being mixed with plastic bags, plastic film is no longer being accepted for recycling at the Mansfield transfer station. Walton will be attending a CT DEEP program about plastic film recycling and hopes to come up with a way to resurrect the collection.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2016. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton